AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of analysing a sample's unconjugated capsular saccharide content, wherein the sample comprises capsular saccharides conjugated to carrier protein and unconjugated capsular saccharides, the method comprising the steps of (i) passing the sample through a solid phase extraction device, wherein the unconjugated capsular saccharides are in the effluent and the capsular saccharides conjugated to carrier protein are retained, (ii) collecting the effluent from the solid phase extraction device, to obtain a specimen comprising separated unconjugated capsular saccharide and ~~(ii)~~ (iii) analysing the specimen's saccharide content to give the unconjugated capsular saccharide content of the sample.

2. (Currently amended) A method of preparing a sample for analysis of its unconjugated capsular saccharide content, wherein the sample comprises capsular saccharides conjugated to carrier protein and unconjugated capsular saccharides, the method comprising the steps of (i) passing the sample through a solid phase extraction device, wherein the unconjugated capsular saccharides are retained and the capsular saccharides conjugated to carrier protein are in the effluent, and (ii) eluting and collecting the unconjugated capsular saccharides from the solid phase extraction device.

3. (Currently amended) ~~In a~~ An improved method of analysing the unconjugated capsular saccharide content of a sample, ~~the improvement consisting of~~ wherein the sample comprises capsular saccharides conjugated to carrier protein and unconjugated capsular saccharides, wherein the improvement comprises passing the sample through a solid phase extraction device, and collecting the effluent from the solid phase extraction device, wherein the unconjugated capsular saccharides are in the effluent.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 comprising the step of measuring the sample's total capsular saccharide content.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the sample is a vaccine.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the vaccine is a glycoconjugate vaccine.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the glycoconjugate vaccine is a single vaccine.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the glycoconjugate vaccine is a combined vaccine.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the combined glycoconjugate vaccine comprises a conjugate from meningoccocal serogroup C.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the glycoconjugate vaccine comprises mixtures of conjugates from each of meningococcal serogroups C and Y.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the glycoconjugate vaccine comprises mixtures of conjugates from each of meningococcal serogroups C, W135 and Y.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the glycoconjugate vaccine comprises mixtures of conjugates from each of meningococcal serogroups A, C, W135 and Y.

14. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the glycoconjugate vaccine comprises mixtures of conjugates from each of meningococcal serogroups A and C.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of any of claims 10 to 14 comprising the step of analysing the sample's unconjugated content of *N. meningitidis* serogroup C capsular saccharide.

16. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method of separating a conjugated capsular saccharide component in a sample from an unconjugated capsular saccharide component in the sample, comprising the step of passing the sample through a solid phase extraction device.

17. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) In a method of separating a conjugated capsular saccharide component in a sample from an unconjugated capsular saccharide component in the sample, the improvement consisting of passing the sample through a solid phase extraction device.

18. (canceled)

19. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The method of claim 16 or claim 17 wherein the conjugated capsular saccharide is a capsular saccharide antigen conjugated to a carrier protein.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16 wherein the sample is a vaccine.

21. (Withdrawn) The method or use of claim 20 wherein the vaccine is a glycoconjugate vaccine.

22. (Withdrawn) The method or use of claim 21 wherein the glycoconjugate vaccine is a single vaccine.

23. (Withdrawn) The method or use of claim 22 wherein the glycoconjugate vaccine is a combined vaccine.

24. (Withdrawn) The method or use of claim 23 wherein the combined glycoconjugate vaccine comprises a conjugate from meningoccocal serogroup C.

25. (Withdrawn) The method or use of claim 24 wherein the glycoconjugate vaccine comprises mixtures of conjugates from each of meningococcal serogroups C and Y.

26. (Withdrawn) The method or use of claim 24 wherein the glycoconjugate vaccine comprises mixtures of conjugates from each of meningococcal serogroups C, W135 and Y.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24 wherein the glycoconjugate vaccine comprises mixtures of conjugates from each of meningococcal serogroups A, C, W135 and Y.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24 wherein the glycoconjugate vaccine comprises mixtures of conjugates from each of meningococcal serogroups A and C.

29. (Withdrawn) The solid phase extraction device obtained by a method of claim 1.

30. (Withdrawn) The effluent obtained by a method of claim 1.

31. (Withdrawn) The eluate obtained by eluting the retentate from the solid phase extraction device obtained by a method of any of claim 1.

32. (Currently Amended) A method of releasing a vaccine for use by physicians, comprising the steps of: (a) manufacturing a vaccine comprising a conjugated capsular saccharide; (b) analysing the vaccine's unconjugated capsular saccharide content by a method of claim 1 or 3; and, if the results from step (b) indicate a capsular saccharide content acceptable for clinical use, (c) releasing the vaccine for use by physicians.

33. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a vaccine composition, comprising a step of analysing the vaccine's unconjugated capsular saccharide content by a method of claim 1 or claim 3, including a step of pH measurement, followed by a step of adjusting the pH of the composition to a desired value *e.g.* between 6 and 8, or about 7.

34. (Currently Amended) A method for packaging a vaccine, comprising the steps of: (a) manufacturing a bulk vaccine containing a conjugated capsular saccharide; (b) analysing the unconjugated capsular saccharide content in the bulk vaccine by a method of claim 1 or claim 3; (c) optionally, analysing the bulk vaccine for pH and/or other properties; and, if the results from step (b) and (c) indicate that the bulk vaccine is acceptable for clinical use, (d) preparing and packaging the vaccine for human use from the bulk.